

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Recidivism Reduction Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

2:30-4 p.m.

DOC Café 24 Conference Room

Wethersfield, CT

In attendance:

Members: Leo Arnone-DOC, Vivien Blackford-CCJR, Peter Gioia-CBIA, Sherry Haller-Justice Education Center, William Carbone-CSSD, Kim Jones (for Erika Tindell) Steve Lanza-Family Re-Entry, Loel Meckel –DMHAS (for Pat Rehmer), Maureen Price-Boreland-CPA and Susan Quinlan-Families in Crisis

Staff: Jason DePatie-CCSU, Noely Sanchez-CPA

Guests: Sarah F. Russell-Quinnipiac University, Ivan Kuzyk-OPM

I. Approval of Minutes

Vivien Blackford requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting. The motion was moved by Maureen Price-Boreland and seconded by Leo Arnone. The vote passed unanimously.

II. Ivan Kuzyk-Guest presenter

Ivan presented his findings on a recidivism study from 2005. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The following are highlights of discussion in response to Ivan's presentation:

1. For all research projects, review and utilize existing data and studies, as relevant – both from within Connecticut and – when appropriate- from outside Connecticut.
2. Gain a holistic understanding of first time offenders, recidivators and people at risk – age under 30 - the ones who do well and the ones who do poorly
3. Intensively study a sample of recent recidivators who are under age 30. Trace the pathways of their lives as they have passed through institutional settings including schools, juvenile services, courts, prison and community supervision. Track their histories in health, mental health and substance abuse, employment, income, housing and neighborhoods, and their social and family support. Trace their participation in and response to the programs and services in and after prison, including community supervision. Note their juvenile histories and their adult charges, convictions and sentences.
4. Similarly study a smaller group of ex-offenders who emerged from 1 incarceration episode by age 30 and have not recidivated in the subsequent 3 or more years. Similarly study a smaller group of first-time, incarcerated offenders under age 30.

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5. Similarly study a smaller group of offenders under age 30 who have not been sentenced to prison.

III. Formulate two or three research projects

Each Committee member was asked to share a possible research project that may be considered for the Sentencing Commission. Below are the suggestions:

1. Assess **the system's strengths, achievements, gaps, and areas of weak impact**. Include DOC, probation, and the nonprofit sector.
2. Study a sample of people who have **short sentences**, both those who recidivate within three years and those who do not recidivate. Track what programs and services were available to them during and after incarceration, and how they responded to available programs and support.
3. Study the **impact of family ties** on recidivism. Compare family-tie effects of incarcerated vs. non-incarcerated offenders, and trace the granular effects of incarceration on families. Review data on impact of conjugal and full family visits on incarcerated offenders.
4. Assess the impact of **peer mentoring** on recidivism.
5. Assess the impact on recidivism and post-release employment of **employment-related activity** while incarcerated.
6. Study the impact of **pre-trial detention** on recidivism.
7. **Debrief offenders** when they complete their sentences.
8. Broaden the assessment of incoming offenders at McDougall-Walker to include analysis of **quality of life factors** relating to re-offending
9. Study relationship of current assessments to factors of success and failure. Can assessments be made more accurate and useful for program and release planning?
10. Utilize the knowledge and access of parole and probation officers.
11. Note the effects and interactions of three points on re-offending outcomes: before incarceration, during incarceration and post-incarceration.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The full Sentencing Commission will meet on Thursday, November 10, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Recidivism Reduction Committee through consensus will propose two or three research projects from the list above.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.